

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05 EUR-12 SSC-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 ARAE-00 /057 W  
----- 035903

O P 272040Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9512  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 1942

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PDIP, TD  
SUBJECT: THE REPUBLIC IS PROCLAIMED

REF: (A) PORT OF SPAIN 1777, (B) PORT OF SPAIN A-52

1. GOVERNOR GENERAL SIR ELLIS CLARKE TODAY (JULY 27) ISSUED THE PROCLAMATION PLACING THE NEW CONSTITUTION INTO EFFECT AND DECLARING TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO A REPUBLIC AS OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 1976. AS OF THAT DATE ALL TIES WITH THE QUEEN WILL HAVE BEEN SEVERED EXCEPT FOR THE RETENTION OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL IN LONDON AS A COURT OF LAST JUDICIAL APPEAL. SEE REF B FOR CONSTITUTIONAL DETAILS.

2. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT APPROPRIATE CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES BE SENT FROM THE PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT ELLIS CLARKE AND TO PRIME MINISTER DR. ERIC WILLIAMS, AND FROM THE SECRETARY TO MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DR. CUTHBERT JOSEPH ON THE OCCASION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AS THE LATEST REPUBLIC IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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HEMISPHERE.

3. GOVERNOR GENERAL SIR ELLIS CLARKE BECOMES INTERIM PRESIDENT UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION UNTIL THE SELECTION OF A PERMANENT PRESIDENT ACCORDING CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES AFTER THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION. HOWEVER, KNIGHTLY TITLES OF NOBILITY ARE BEING DROPPED, AND THE PRESIDENT SHOULD MERELY BE ADDRESSED AS HIS EXCELLENCY ELLIS CLARKE, PRESIDENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

4. PROCLAMATION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION DOES NOT AFFECT THE INCUMBENCY OF THE PRIME MINISTER OR CABINET. NEW PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS MUST STILL BE HELD NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 18, 1976.

FAY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, SELFGOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1976PORTO01942  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760289-0836  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Reference:** 76 PORT OF SPAIN 1777, 76 PORT OF SPAIN A-52  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hackerp0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 13 FEB 2004  
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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE REPUBLIC IS PROCLAIMED  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PDIP, PDEV, TD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006